Contribution for Expenditure being Incurred on Railway Police

3989. SHRI LAXMINARAYAN SHARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that 50 percent contribution for expenditure being incurred on Railway Police under Government of India is made by Railway Ministry;

(b) whether it ia also a fact that State of Madhya Pradesh has yet to receive Rs. 15,88,75,851/-from Ministry of Railways under the head; and

(c) by when this amount will be sanctioned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No Sir. Only an amount of Rs. 10.51 crore is payable to the State of Madhya Pradesh which is held up on account of non-recepit of Audit Certificate and excess operation of posts without Railway Board's sanction.

(c) Railways have standing instructions to pay all clearly admissible bills accompanied by Audit Certificate.

Construction of Under Bridges/Over Bridges on Important Railway Crossings

† 3990. DR. PRABHA THAKUR:
PROF. R.B.S. VARMA:
SHRI R.S. GAVAI:

Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that closing of Railway crossings at various places throught the country results in wastage of time, petrol and diesel of lacs of people;

(b) whether Government propose to make special provision in the Budget for construction of under and over bridges on important Railway crossings to check the wastage of time, money and labour and to facilitate lacs of passengers;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) if so, the details of the plan and the amount likely to be spent on this; and

(d) by when, the bridges would be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) There are already provisions to replace the busy level crossings with Road over/under bridges on cost sharing basis if the traffic density at the level crossing reaches at 1 lakh TVUs (TVU-A unit obtained by multiplying the number of trains with the number of road vehicles passing over the level crossing in 24 hours) otherwise, if felt necessary, on deposit terms. Proposal in both cases have to be sponsored by concerned State Govt, duly fulfilling certain preliminary pre-requisites required under extant rules. Following this creiteria at present 428 works are sanctioned on cost sharing basis. These are at different stages of planning and execution. An amount of Rs. 411 crore has been earmarked for these works during 2005-06.

(d) Railways construct bridge proper (across the tracks) and approaches are executed by State Governments/Road Authorities concerned. All out efforts are made to complete Railway's portion of work simultaneously with the work of approaches. Completion of work depende upon completion of approaches by State Governments/Road Authorities also.

Fire in Toofanc Express

3991. SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI DATTA MEGHE:

Will the Minister of RAILWAY be pleased to state:

(a) whether a major fire broke out in five coaches of Toofan Express going to Hawrah from New Delhi near Buxar in Bihar on the morning of 4th April, 2005;

(b) if so, whether an inquiry into the causes of fire, the loss to life and property caused thereby has been held; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken thereon?